



Natural Resources Conservation Service
6013 Lakeside Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46278

December 7, 2004

INDIANA BULLETIN NO. IN300-6-4

SUBJECT: LTP – Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) Ranking for 2006

Purpose: To inform Field Offices of WHIP ranking process for 2006

Expiration Date: September 30, 2006

Action Required By: January 13, 2006

Indiana NRCS has received its initial allocation of WHIP funds for 2006. Field offices can now begin ranking WHIP applications using the 2006 WHIP Ranking Worksheet. The worksheet can be found on the Indiana NRCS website under the Programs tab (<http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/whip.html>). The 2006 WHIP Guidance Document is also located at this site. Once applications are ranked, enter the application in ProTracts. Please remember to enter the ranking score and total cost-share amount in ProTracts.

Minor changes were made to the 2006 WHIP Ranking Worksheet. These changes include:

- The **minimum** total cost-share requirement for an application to be considered has been raised to \$1,000. The **maximum** amount remains the same at \$25,000.
- Prescribed burning will no longer be broken down by size of the area to be burned. The NTE rate has been raised to \$45 per acre regardless of size.
- Increasing the Not to Exceed (NTE) rate for Feathering of Woodland Edge to Create Wildlife Habitat under Early Successional Habitat Development (647) to \$275 per acre.
- All references to warm season grass plantings have been combined into one item titled "Any warm season grass mixture from FOTG 645". The NTE rate is set at \$175 per acre. This change can be noted under Field Border (386) and Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645).
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) has been changed to only include Bottomland Hardwood. All other tree/shrub establishment has been moved to Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645).
- Cosmetic changes were made on the Statewide Priorities worksheet. Checkboxes were added to make your selections.

Please remember to enter the ranking score and estimated cost-share from the WHIP Ranking Worksheet when entering applications into ProTracts. A copy of the ranking worksheet and the signed CCC-1200 should be sent to the State Office to the attention of John Poenisch.

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The cut-off for the first round of funding will be January 13, 2006. All applications received and entered into ProTracts by that date will be considered for funding in the first round. Additional rounds will be each month until all funds are obligated. Cut-off dates will be announced as needed. **All applications must be entered into ProTracts by March 15, 2006.** All funds must be obligated into contracts by June 1, 2006.

Any questions regarding the ranking worksheet or guidance document should be directed to John Poenisch, Program Analyst, at extension 357.

/s/

J. XAVIER MONTOYA
Acting State Conservationist